

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows a hose-side coupling fitting 1 and a corresponding motor side coupling fitting 3, which motor and coupling can be sterilized, in the uncoupled state. Coupling fittings 1 and 3 have longitudinal axes 1A, 3A which are substantially aligned when the components are positioned as illustrated in Fig. 1 preparatory to push together plug-in coupling. A hose sleeve 2 is used to secure a flexible hose, via which required media, such as electricity, water and/or air, as well as a fibre optic feed from the dental unit (not depicted) or control system to the motor 330, are transported or transmitted. An annular outer sleeve 4 of hose-side coupling fitting 1 and an annular ring fitting 5 are screwed together to form a connection, and the ring fitting 5 is tensioned by a spring 6 to be urged to the left in Fig. 1. Sleeve 4 and ring fitting 5 may be moved axially of the coupling fitting as a unit between a lock position shown in Fig. 4 and an unlock position in Fig. 1. A locking element, or plate 7, is mounted within the hose-side coupling fitting 1, for movement laterally of the longitudinal axis 3A1A between an unlock position as seen in Fig. 1 and a lock position in Fig. 4. Plate 7 is pre-tensioned by a locking spring 8, or biasing element urging locking plate toward its unlock position as seen in Fig 1. When in this position it engages in a step 18 located on ring fitting 5, which prevents release of tension in the spring 6 and causes the ring fitting 5 to be fixed in a displaced, or unlock, position in the direction of the hose (to the right in Fig. 1). The front or leading end 5A of the ring fitting 5 thus releases openings 17 in a bushing 10, into which several ball bearings or bearing members 9 are sunk.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 3 shows the motor 330 in an uncoupled state. The handpiece (not shown here) is plugged onto a coupling spigot 11 by means of a twist-type plug connection. Located in a motor sleeve 12 are, in addition to the other components necessary for the ~~motor's~~ motor's function, electrical contacts 13 and media transfer lines 14 for the supply of air, e.g. a cooling air stream for the motor, and water. Furthermore, the motor sleeve 12 also includes a circumferential outer

sleeve portion 12A which projects a selected distance axially from remainder portions of the coupling and possesses an annular, or circular inner groove 15, into which the ball bearings 9 engage as sealing, or securing elements in the coupled state. End portions of contacts 13 and lines 14 project axially outwardly from remainder portions of the coupling fitting with one of the lines 14 projecting at least as far as sleeve portion 12A.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 4 shows the motor side coupling 3 in the coupled state together with the hose-side coupling fitting 1. The transition from the outer sleeve 4 of the coupling fitting 1 to the motor sleeve 12 can only be detected at break line 16. When the two coupling fittings are connected, the locking element 7 is pressed laterally of the longitudinal axis 1A of the coupling-1A, radially inwardly against its locking spring 8 into the hose-side coupling fitting 1 and held in this lock position by a media transfer line 14 extending into a bore, or opening, 7A in the locking element, (or alternatively by one of the electrical contacts 13) of the motor 330. Mating, or engaging, surfaces of a line, 13 or 14 and bore 7A are oriented such that as a line 13 or 14 enters bore 7A it urges element 7 laterally inwardly. This allows the tension in spring 6 to be released and the ring fitting 5 to move in the direction of the motor 330 to the left in Fig. 4. This in turn causes the ball bearings 9 to be pressed by ring fitting 5 outwards into the groove 15 of the sleeve 12 of the coupling fitting for motor 330. Motor side coupling fitting 3, therefore, is now coupled to the coupling fitting 1. This is a positive connection produced by selected shaped elements (ball bearings) engaging a receiving groove. This also is referred to as a shape-actuated plug connection.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to unlock the coupling, the outer sleeve 4 is pulled back (to the right in Figs. 1 and 4) drawing ring fitting 5 back against the spring 6, toward its unlock position allowing the ball bearings 9 to move once again into the openings 17 of the coupling fitting 1. This causes the

motor 330 to be loosened and allows the coupling fittings to be pulled axially apart and electrical contact 13 or media transfer line 14 to release the locking element 7, which is pressed outwards by the locking spring 8 and therefore blocks the ring fitting 5 once again in the retracted, or unlock, position shown in Fig. 1.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to guarantee positive activation of the coupling during the connection process, at least that electrical contact 13 or that media transfer line 14 which penetrates the bore 7A of the locking element 7 is of equal length to, or projects beyond the outer sleeve 12 surrounding it. Thus, the electrical contact 13 and/or the media transfer line 14 can be referred to as "projecting elements(s)."

Please insert the attached replacement Abstract as the last page of the specification.